

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

DHA-02 ORM-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /028 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:ATHOMPSON:LCB

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

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R 240027Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILIES CASE -- RUMYANA AND YORDANKA
MAREVA

REF: SOFIA 1765

1. WE APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL INFO IN REFTTEL, WHICH
CONFIRMED OUR IMPRESSION FROM TALKING WITH MAREVS THAT
THEIR TIES WITH RELATIVES BACK IN BULGARIA HAVE NOT BEEN
ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY. MAREVS STATED THAT THEY DID
NOT KNOW WHO IS LEGAL GUARDIAN OF DAUGHTERS BUT
BELIEVED IT HAD BEEN MRS. MAREVA'S MOTHER, AT LEAST AS
LONG AS GIRLS WERE LIVING WITH HER. THE MOTHER NOW
LIVES WITH ANOTHER DAUGHTER, RADKA VOLCHEVA DIMITROVA, IN
BORYANA. MAREVS INSIST RUMYANA WENT TO LIVE AT ORPHANAGE/
BOARDING SCHOOL IN 1970, YORDANKA IN 1972, AND THAT
GIRLS ONLY STAY WITH RELATIVES DURING VACATIONS.

2. MRS. MAREVA'S LAST LETTERS FROM HER BROTHER, ZHELEZ
ZHELEZOV, WERE RECEIVED LATE IN 1974, SHE BELIEVES.
HE HAD ASKED HER FOR A U.S. VISA AND LATER SENT HER COPY
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OF HIS BIRTH CERTIFICATE. MRS. MAREVA SAYS THAT SENDING

THE INS IMMIGRANT PETITION FOR HER BROTHER HAD BEEN A MISTAKE -- SHE HAD MEANT ONLY TO HAVE BROTHER, WITH OR

WITHOUT HIS FAMILY, COME ON A VISIT TO U.S. "ANYAY, I WANT MY CHILDREN TO COME FIRST," MRS. MAREVA COMMENTED. MAREVS DO NOT WISH TO SPONSOR ZHELEZOV AND HIS FAMILY FOR IMMIGRANT VISAS.

3. HISTORY OF MAREVS' INITIATIVES WITH GOB ON DAUGHTERS' BEHALF IS MURKY. MRS. MAREVA HAS TOLD US COPIES OF HER LETTERS ARE WITH A LAWYER IN CHICAGO. (SHE FLEW THERE AUGUST 20 TO TRY TO RETRIEVE THEM.) SHE BELIEVES HER FIRST LETTER TO GOB WAS SENT TO SOFIA IN 1969 OR 1970. REPLY CAME TO HER FROM BULGARIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND SIMPLY SAID IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR CHILDREN TO COME TO U.S. MRS. MAREVA SAYS SUBSEQUENT LETTERS TO BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT RECEIVED REPLIES.

4. MAREVS SAY THEY DO NOT HAVE LAWYER IN BULGARIA WORKING ON CASE OR RELATIVES THERE WHO WILL PRESS CASE: "EVERYONE IS AFRAID TO HANDLE THIS." MRS. MAREVA SAYS SHE SENT AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT (WE ARE POUCHING YOU UNDATED COPY) TO HER MOTHER IN MARCH 1972. MOTHER AND ZHELEZOV CARRIED AFFIDAVIT TO SOFIA TO GIVE IT TO GOB OFFICIAL -- MRS. MAREVA THINKS IT WAS IN MFA. OFFICIAL TOLD ZHELEZOV, "YOU MUST NOT COME TO TALK ABOUT THIS CASE." ZHELEZOV THEREAFTER WROTE MAREVS THAT HE COULD DO NOTHING FURTHER.

5. MAREVS VISITED BULGARIAN EMBASSY IN JULY 1974, WHERE ONE IVANOV TOLD THEM EMBASSY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT CASE.

6. F.Y.I. MAREVS NOW HAVE CONSIDERABLE MEDIA ATTENTION HERE: LOCAL TV NEWS COVERAGE AUGUST 18, WASHINGTON POST STORY AUGUST 20 (BEING POUCHED), AND NBC TV NEWS STORY COMING UP. PREDICTABLY, MAREVS MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO CONTINUE PICKETING. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPATRIATION, DEPENDENTS, VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE209383
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ATHOMPSON:LCB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760322-0722
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760825/aaaaauzk.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SOFIA 1765
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIVIDED FAMILIES CASE -- RUMYANA AND YORDANKA MAREVA
TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, PFOR, BU, US, (MAREVA, RUMYANA), (MAREVA, YORDANKA)
To: SOFIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006